



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF 'KO' IN KUPANG MALAY

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Abstract: This thesis is entitled "A Descriptive Study of 'Ko' in Kupang Malay". The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative to answer the questions (1) what is the morphological status of 'ko' in Kupang Malay?, (2) what is the meaning of 'ko' in Kupang Malay?, (3) what are the functions of 'ko' in Kupang Malay?. The aims of this research are to find out the morphological status of 'ko' in Kupang Malay, to know the meaning of 'ko' in Kupang Malay, and to know the functions of 'ko' in Kupang Malay. The techniques to collect the data were observation, interview and note taking. After doing the observation, the writer analyzed the data and the result shows that the morphological status of 'ko' in Kupang Malay is a free morpheme because it is capable of standing alone as a complete word. The word 'ko' can be a content words namely as an adverb, and it can also be function word, functioning as conjunction and interrogative word. The meaning of *ko* as an adverb are *about, maybe, perhaps, probably and just*, the function of *ko* as an adverb is to modify another adverb and verb. The meaning of *ko* as conjunction are *or, because, if, and so that*, the function of *ko* as conjunction is to conjoin two independent clauses. The meaning of *ko* as interrogative words is as a Yes-No question words; those question beginning with an auxiliary verb and to be, the function of *ko* as interrogative word is to ask question and require Yes or No as the answer.

Keywords: *Ko, meanings, functions, morphological status, kupang malay.*

INTRODUCTION

Language has a very complex systematic sound and words that can help people to express their ideas or thought. Language has sound and forms that is interested to be studied. The scientific study of language is called Linguistics. The branches of linguistics include phonology, morphology, syntax and semantic. A component of sound, which is linguistically dealt with Phonology; Morphology is a component of combination of meaningful element to form words; Syntax is a component of words to form larger structure than words, Semantics is a component of meaning (Kroon, 2007:2).

Morphology is a branch of linguistics which provides the knowledge about the form of a word. Word is a single unit of language which has its own meaning and can be spoken or written. Morphology explains the smallest component of a language called morpheme. Morpheme is known as the minimal units of meaning. Morpheme proves that words is not the smallest unit in language. For example the word "impossible", it is composed of two morphemes = morpheme Im (this morpheme as the negative morpheme or can roughly be glossed as 'not') and morpheme possible (means 'that can be done or achieved'). There are two types of morphemes; free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morpheme is capable of standing alone as a complete word. It comes in a few different types including roots, stem, bases and content words and function words. While, bound morphemes is a morpheme which can never stand alone to make a word.

In relation to morphology, Kupang Malay is one of interesting phenomena to be analyzed particularly from morphological point of view. Kupang Malay has been characterized as a lingua franca variety of Malay which is intermediate on a post-creole continuum between acrolectal standard Indonesian and basilectal ethnic language (Grimes, 1996 in Erington: 2011:1). Kupang Malay is a Malay-based creole spoken in and around the city of Kupang by around 220.000 native speakers, and tens of thousands of second-language speakers (Grimes, 2000:510). Kupang Malay, a language spoken by Kupangnese who lives in Timor Island of Nusa Tenggara Province, has been analyzed by some researchers as Niron in his research has written about Kupang Malay under the title *An Analysis of Derivational Morphemes in Kupang Malay Language* and Grimes and Jacob in their study under the title *Developing a Role for Kupang Malay: The Contemporary Politics of an Eastern Indonesian Creole*. However, the writer conducted a research about Kupang Malay from a different point of view.

The use of *ko* in Kupang Malay is interesting to be analyzed by the writer because there has not been many research that analyzed about *ko* in more detail. For example, "*nasi 'ko' jagung, and lu su makan ko?*". The word '*ko*' in the first sentence act as conjunction which means *or* and will be translated as '*rice or corn*'. whereas, the word '*ko*' in the second sentence act as an affix *-kah* to the question marker in Indonesian such *apa, bagaimana*, etc and will be translated as '*apa-kah*'

anda sudah makan?’ or in English, ‘*have you eaten?*’. It is clearly seen that these sentences contains ‘*ko*’ but they have different meaning and function. In addition, most of the native or non-native speaker of Kupang Malay might not realize and know about the morphological status, meaning and functions of *ko* in Kupang Malay. Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting a research under the title *A Descriptive Study of ‘Ko’ in Kupang Malay*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Morphology

Follows are two definitions about morphology by linguists. Morphology is the study of internal structure of word, systematic covariation in the form and meaning of words, the combination of morpheme to yield words (Haspelmath and Sims, 2010: 1). Morphology is the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in a language of the world, and the way forms of words are varied depending on how they’re used in the sentence (Lieber, 2009: 2). In linguistics, morphology refers to the mental system involved in words formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed (Aronof and Fudeman, 2011: 1). Based on the definitions above, it can be said that morphology is a branch of linguistics which provides the analysis, identification and description about the form of words, internal structure of word or the mental system involved in word formation.

Words

Words refers to the particular physical realization of the abstract vocabulary item (the lexeme) in speech or writing. This physical realization may also be referred to as a word-form. For example *see*, *sees*, *seeing*, *saw*, and *seen*. Those are five different words-form which have the same meaning but belong to the same lexeme SEE (Kroon, 2012:13). Words are thus minimal free form: they have a degree of independence from other words in the sentence in the sense that they can be separated from them (this gives us the ‘free’ bit), and no smaller part of them has such freedom (giving the ‘minimal’ bit) (McGregor, 2009: 58).

Morpheme

Morpheme as the minimal units of meaning also can be defined as the minimal linguistic sign, a grammatical unit that is an arbitrary union of a sound and a meaning that cannot be further analysed. Every word in every language is composed of one or more morphemes (Fromkin, et al, 1996:42). The meaningful elements in a word are morphemes. Thus, *true* is a morpheme; *untrue* and *truly* contain two morphemes each; *untruthfulness* contains five (UN- + TRUE + -TH + -FUL + -NESS). *Truer* has two elements TRUE and -ER (‘more’). The

morphemes in *truly* are TRUE and -LY; in *untrue*, TRUE and UN-; in *truthful*, TRUE + -TH + -FUL.

Most morphemes have lexical meaning, other represent a grammatical category or semantic notion such as past tense (the -ed in *looked*) or plural (the -s in *kites*) or comparative degree (the -er in *taller*) (Finegan, 2008: 41).

Types of Morpheme

There are two types of morphemes, namely free morphemes and bound morphemes.

1) Free Morphemes

Free morpheme is a morpheme that is capable of standing alone as a complete word such book, green, sleep, etc. Free morpheme may come for different types including root, stem, bases, content word and function words (Kroon, 2012:25).

2) Content words and function word

In all language, words (and entire word classes) can be divided into the two broad classes of content words and function words. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are content words, and adpositions, conjunctions, and articles, as well auxiliaries and words classified as ‘particles’ are function words (Haspelmath, 2001: 16539).

a. Content words are:

Noun

The label noun is assigned to the class of word in which occur the names of most persons, places, and things (Kroon, 2012:35). A noun is a word that is used to name something: a person, a place, an object or an idea.

Here are some examples of noun:

<i>woman</i>	<i>city</i>	<i>freedom</i>	<i>alice</i>	<i>walker</i>
<i>street</i>	<i>diamond</i>	<i>possibility</i>	<i>steve</i>	<i>martin</i>
<i>chicago</i>	<i>corvette</i>	<i>mystery</i>		

(Langan and Johnson, 2009:27).

Verb

The term verb is the name given to the part-of-speech class in which occur in most of the word that express action, processes and the like (Kroon, 2012:37). Every complete sentences must contain at least one verb. There are two types of verbs: action verbs and linking verbs. An action verb tells what is being done in a sentences and some verbs are linking verbs. These verbs link (or join) a noun to something that is said about it.

Action verb: *swatted*, *poured*, *chanted*, etc.

Linking verb: *am*, *appear*, *become*, *feel*, *is*, *look*, *seem*, *sound*, *was*, and *were*.

(Langan and Johnson, 2009:30)

Adjective

Traditional notional definition of adjectives identifies them as the class of words denoting *qualities*, or *attributes*; i.e. they function to modify

nouns (Kroon, 2012: 40). Adjective is a word that describes a person or thing, for example *big*, *red*, and *clever* in *a big house*, *red wine*, and *a clever idea* (Hornby, 2006: 18).

Adverb

Adverbs describe verbs and modify adjectives and other adverbs. Adverbs, unlike adjectives, do not modify nouns. Adverbs can also modify phrases, clauses, and sentences. Adverbs answer one of the following questions: When? Where? Why? How? Under what conditions? And, To what extent?

Example:

- *The teacher had to speak **loudly** to be heard over the children. (Loudly modifies the verb speak.)*
- *The children were **really** bad during the movie. (Really modifies the adjective bad.)*
- *John approached the wounded dog **very** slowly. (Very modifies the adverb slowly.)*
- ***Clearly**, Sarah did not understand the directions. (Clearly modifies the sentence.)*
- *The box is **still** below the stairs. (Still modifies the phrase "below the stairs.")*

(Sherman, 2011:315)

Types of Adverbs

a) Adverbs of Time

An adverb of time answers the question *When?* Adverbs of time include: *after*, *always*, *before*, *during*, *early*, *later*, *never*, *now*, *often*, *rarely*, *recently*, *sometimes*, *soon*, *then*, *today*, *tomorrow*, *usually*, *yesterday*, etc.

Example:

John will attend the soccer game **after** he finishes his homework. (**After** answers the question: When will John attend the soccer game?)

(Sherman, 2011:315)

b) Adverbs of Manner

An adverb of manner answers the question *How?* Adverbs of manner include: *badly*, *beautifully*, *better*, *bravely*, *cheerfully*, *fast*, *hard*, *quickly*, *slowly*, *inadequately*, *healthy*, *well*, etc.

Example:

Sarah **slowly** walked over the rocky beach. (**Slowly** answers the question: How did Sarah walk?)

(Sherman, 2011:315)

c) Adverbs of Place

An adverb of place answers the question *Where?* Adverbs of place include: *above*, *away*, *below*, *down*, *here*, *inside*, *near*, *outside*, *there*, *up*, etc.

Example:

Susan placed the boxes **above** the file cabinet. (**Above** answers the question: Where did Susan place the boxes?)

(Sherman, 2011:315)

d) Adverbs of Degree

An adverb of degree answers the question *How much?* It describes the strength and intensity at which something happens. Adverbs of degree include: *almost*, *completely*, *enough*, *entirely*, *extremely*, *hardly*, *just*, *little*, *much*, *nearly*, *quite*, *rather*, *very*, *too*, etc.

Example:

John worked **very** hard to complete his part of the project. (**Very** answers the question: How hard did John work?)

(Sherman, 2011:316)

e) Adverbs of Frequency

An adverb of frequency answers the question *How often?* Adverbs of frequency include: *always*, *never*, *usually*, *frequently*, *occasionally*, *rarely*, *seldom*, *sometimes*, etc.

Example:

Bob **always** forgets to check his email before class begins. (**Before** answers the question: How often does Bob forget to check his email?).

(Sherman, 2011:316)

f) Interrogative Adverbs

An interrogative adverb introduces a question. Interrogative adverbs are usually placed at the beginning of the sentence. Interrogative adverbs include: *how*, *when*, *why*, and *where*.

Example:

When will John's plane arrive from Atlanta?

(Sherman, 2011:316)

g) Conjunctive Adverbs

Conjunctive adverbs serve as transitional words, joining and relating independent clauses. Conjunctive adverbs include: *accordingly*, *also*, *alternatively*, *certainly*, *consequently*, *finally*, *nevertheless*, *moreover*, *previously*, *therefore*, etc. For a list of more conjunctive adverbs, refer to the Writing Center's handout *Common Conjunctions*.

Example:

We plan to leave early in the morning; **therefore**, we will go to bed early.

(Sherman, 2011:317)

h) Forming Adverbs

Adding -ly to the end

Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to an adjective.

Example: clear/clearly hard/hardly

(Sherman, 2011:317)

i) Irregular Adverbs

Some adverbs do not use the *-ly* ending. These adverbs do not have a particular form. Following is a list of some of the most common irregular adverbs: *already*, *also*, *always*, *here*, *never*, *not*, *now*, *often*, *quite*, *seldom*, *soon*, *still*, *then*, *there*, *too*, *very well*.

(Sherman, 2011:317)

j) Adverb Placement

Adverbs are flexible in their placement; therefore, they can be placed just about anywhere within the sentence;

- at the beginning of a sentence or a clause.

Example: **Clearly**, John has a problem arriving to work on time.

- At the end of a sentence or a clause

Example: Sarah and John attend the opera **frequently**.

- After the verb

Example: Bob and John have **always** participated in the soccer tournament.

- Between the subject and the verb

Example: Sarah **rarely** forgets to call home when she is out late.

(Sherman, 2011:318)

Adverb commonly function as modifier of constituents other than nouns. The word class an adverb modifies include verbs, adjectives and adverbs (Kroon, 2012: 40). An adverb is a word that describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

Example: *loudly, softly, angrily, extremely, very, often, never, always and well.*

(Langan and Johnson, 2009:34)

b. Function words are:

1) Adposition

Adpositions are small indeclinable parts of speech that denote a relation between two constituents. Adposition is the cover term for pre- and postposition like *in, on, through, towards*, etc. They could be said to mark a relation of a dependent noun to the verbal head just like case (Lestrade, 2006: 19). Adposition included both preposition and postposition. In their concrete meaning, English preposition (like *on, at, in, to, until, from, of, off, over, above, under, below, with, by, about, among, before, after, behind, through*, etc.) typically located and entity in space or time. Preposition are never inflected. When followed by pronouns, they are always followed by the oblique form (*me, him, her, us, them*) rather than the subject form (*I, he, she, we, they*). In other languages, such as Japanese, words corresponding to English prepositions are typically placed after the noun such as *Tookyoo kara* 'from Tokyo', *Kyooto made* 'to Kyoto'. Such words are called postposition (Kroon, 2011: 41). Preposition is a word or group of words, such as *in, from, to, out, of, on behalf of*, used before a noun or pronoun to show places, position, time or method. (Hornby, 2011:1144). Postposition is a word or part of a word that comes after the word it relates to, for example '*_ish*' in '*greenish*' (Hornby, 2011: 1143).

2) Conjunction

Conjunction are another word class that is categorized as function or grammatical words. They are words that are used to conjoin words, phrases, or clauses together, such as *but, and, when*, etc (Kroon, 2007: 38). Conjunction are word that connect. There are two types of

conjunction, coordinating and subordinating. Coordinating conjunction (joining words): *and, but, for, nor, or, so, and yet*. When a subordinating conjunction is added to a word group, the words can no longer stand alone as an independent sentences. They are no longer a complete thought.

Here are the example: *after, even if, unless, where, although, even though, until, wherever, as, if, when, whether, because, since, whenever, while, before and though*.

(Langan and Johnson, 2009:35).

3) Articles

Articles include the words which are identified as definite and indefinite article and words that are sometimes identified as demonstrative adjectives or modifiers. The reasons for grouping the demonstrative modifiers together with the other articles are both syntactically and semantically. Syntactically, demonstrative and other articles usually constitute a single distributional class, occurring in the same position in relation to the noun and other elements of the noun phrase, and not occurring in a single noun phrase. Compare *a small woman* and *this small woman*. Semantically, demonstrative modifiers are like definite articles in that they can function as a reference indicator. For example, *this* often indicates that the referent of the following noun is close at hand, and *the* often indicates that the referent of the following noun is assumed to have already been established (Kroon, 2011: 47). Article is the words *a* and *an* (the indefinite article) or *the* (the definite article) (Hornby, 2011: 68).

4) Particle

A particle is a word that resembles a preposition or an adverb, and is used in combination with a verb. When a verb and a particle behave as a single syntactic and/or semantic unit, we call the combination a phrasal verb (Jurafsky and Martin, 2005:5). Particle is an adverb or a preposition that can combine with a verb to make a phrasal verb: in '*She tore up the letter*', the word '*up*' is a particle (Hornby, 2010:1070).

5) Interrogative Words

Interrogative words are also called question words. There are two types of questions, Yes – No questions; those question beginning with an auxiliary verb, and requires an answer with YES or NO. This type of question is also called *Confirmation Question*.

Example: - do you go to school every day? -

Yes/No

- does the girl live in that old house? - Yes/No

- does John like bananas? - Yes/No

And another type of question is Information Question; are those questions beginning with a question word, and require the information being asked with the question words.

Example:

- Where does Jack live? - He lives in Kupang

-
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - How old are you? | - I am 28 years old |
| - What is your name? | - My name is John |
- (Kian Bera, 2011, 38)
-

Bound Morphemes

Bound morpheme, by contrast, requires the presence of another morpheme to make up a word; they can't occur independently. For example, *The farmer kills the duckling*. The morphs *-er*, *s* and *ling* are bound morpheme; all the other morphemes are free (McGregor, 2009: 60). Bound morpheme is a morpheme which can never stand alone to make a word, but which always must be combined with at least one other morpheme, such as derivational affixes or the inflectional plural (Kroon, 2012:27).

Based on the position, a bound morpheme may be attached to an independent form, affixes may be categorized into the following:

1. Prefixes. A prefix is an affix which precedes the root, stem or based to which it is bound, such as the English affix **re-** in *rewrite*, *reread* and **un-** in *unhappy*, *untidy*.
2. Suffixes. Suffix is an affix which follows a root, a stem or a based in the form containing. English affix such as **-s**, indicating plural, which is attached after a noun, as in *books*, *tables*, *houses*, is an obvious example of English suffix.
3. Infixes. Infix is an affix which occupies a position in which it interrupts another single morpheme. In Indonesian, the type of morphemes seems to be rather productive such as **-em-** in *gilang* → *gemilang*, *getar* → *gemetar* and **-el-** in *tunjuk* → *telunjuk* (Kroon, 2012:27).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The writer employed descriptive qualitative method. Arikunto in Kolo (2015:32) states that the aim of descriptive method is to investigate and describe information or conditions that exist in a certain circumstance and the data collected will be explained and analyzed toward the nature of situation, as it exists at the time of study. Thus, the writer used descriptive qualitative method in order to describe about morphological status of *ko* in Kupang Malay.

Procedure Of Research

In conducting this research, the writer applied two stages of research as follows:

1. Library Research. The writer used library research because the data is taken from Kupang Malay dictionary. It is used to find out the lexical definition.
2. Field Research. The writer collected the data from virtual communication (social media: line, facebook and blackberry messenger). First, the writer login into the writer's account (line, facebook and BBM) to observe the used of *ko* that the informants use in

their conversation. After that, the writer selected some expression using *ko* (in communication) by screen-shoot, print-screen and screen-grab tools. Finally, the writer retyped the selected expression in which it became the required data for the research.

3.1 Technique Of Data Collection

In order to gain the data of this research, the writer conducted the following techniques of data collection:

1. Observation

The writer in this research collected the data by doing observation in social media; line, facebook and blackberry messenger.

2. Interview

Interview was also conducted in order to know the meaning and function of *ko* in Kupang Malay. In conducting interview, the writer selected two informants.

3. Note taking

As the complement, to avoid the absence of the data during observation and interview, the writer did some note taking on the data and some related informations dealing with the data obtained.

Technique Of Data Analysis

The data obtained were analyzed through following technique of data analysis:

1. The writer logged into the writer's account (line, facebook and BBM) to observe the used of *ko*.
 2. The writer selected some expression using *ko* (in communication) by screen-shoot, print-screen and screen-grab tools.
 3. The writer retyped the selected expression in which became the required data research.
 4. The writer analyzed the morphological status of 'ko'.
 5. The writer analyzed the meaning of 'ko'.
- The writer analyzed the function of 'ko'.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Morphological status of *ko* in Kupang Malay

The result of data analysis shows that *ko* is a free morpheme because it is capable to stand alone as a complete word. For example,

- beli manga *ko* pisang?
- buy mango *or* banana
- Do you want to buy mango *or* banana?

The word *ko* in this sentence is not bound to *mangga* and *pisang* but it stands alone as a complete word which has meaning and function. There are four different types of free morpheme including root, stem, bases, content word and function word. In this case the word *ko* can be a content word namely as an *adverb*, and it can also be a

function word, functioning as, *conjunction* and *interrogative words*.

Evening **maybe**
Maybe this evening.

The Meaning and Function of *Ko* as Adverb

The discussion below shows the findings about *ko* as an adverb. The word *ko* as an adverb expresses proximity or probability both in number and time, and can be translated into *about*, *maybe*, *perhaps*, *probably* and *just*. *Ko* in the following sentences function as an adverb to modify or to describe another adverb and verb.

Examples,

- [1] A : Hp baru dong ni cas
berapa lama?
Mobile phone new them this charge
how long?
Howlong it is to charge this new mobile
phone?
B : Empat jam begitu **ko..**
Four hour like that **about**
It is **about** four hours

The meaning of *ko* in the example above is *about*. Contextually *ko* in this sentence has function to modify the word *begitu* (like that) which is also an adverb to describe how much time needed to charge a new mobile phone. Another example is given below.

- [2] beta diluar; yang didalam lima orang
ko
I outside REL inside five people
about
1SG outside REL inside five people
about
I amoutside, there are **about** five people inside

The meaning of example above is 'I am outside, there are **about** five people inside'. The word *ko* of this sentence means *about* and it functions as an adverb to modify *lima* (five) to predict how much the number of people. A similar example with the same meaning provides below.

- [3] dia lahir tanggal empat september **ko**
she born date four september
about
3SG born date four september
about
She was born on **about** fourth of September

The meaning of example (3) is 'she was born on **about** fourth of September'. *Ko* of this sentence functions as a word to modify *empat September* (fourth of September) to describe a prediction to someone's date of birth. Follows is an example that can be translated to adverb *maybe*, *perhaps* and *probably*.

- [4] A: Kapan lu datang?
when you come?
When do you want to come?
B: Malam **ko..**

The meaning of example above is '**Maybe** this evening'. *Ko* in this sentence means *maybe* and has function as to modify *malam* (evening). It is used to describe when he will come but in uncertainty. Another example of *ko* as adverb *just* is given below.

- [5] **Ko** pake itu baju su supaya katong
sama
Just wear that t-shirt already so we
same
Just wear that t-shirt already so 2PL
same
Just wear that t-shirt! So, we are same.

The meaning of *ko* in the example (5) is *just*. Contextually the word *ko* in this sentence function is to modify the word *pake* (wear) which is a verb to give permission, **Just** (adv) wear (v) that t-shirt. Some similar examples are follows.

- [6] **Ko** pulang skarang su, aris ada
cari lu
Just return home now already, aris exist
search you
Just return home now already, aris exist
search 2SG
Just come home now, Aris needs you

The meaning of example above is '**Just** come home now, Aris needs you'. the word *ko* in this sentence means *just* and it's function is to modify the word *pulang* (return home) as in example (5) to give any permission, **just** (adv) come (v) home now. Then, sentence (7) is the last similar example.

- [7] **ko** makan su ini enak
Just eat already this delicious
Just eat it, it tastes delicious

The explanation is not different with example (5), and (6). The sentence above means '**Just** eat it, it tastes delicious', and the word *ko* function as an adverb *just* to modify the word *makan* (eat) to give permission, **just** (adv) eat (v) it.

The discussion explains that the morphological status of *ko* is an adverb. *Ko* in example 1, 2 and 3 described a little more or less than as an adverb *about*, the word *ko* in example 4 described something that is not certain will happen, and about something that is true or not, as adverb *maybe*, then the word *ko* in example 5, 6 and 7 is used to give permission. Generally, example 1, 2, 3, and 4 described the word *ko* as an adverb that is used to modify another adverb and is placed at the begining of the sentences, while the word *ko* in example 5, 6 and 7 described the word *ko* as an adverb that is used to modify verb and is place at the end of the sentences.

The word *ko* in these examples includes to adverb of degree because it describes the strength and intensity at which something happens.

The Meaning and Function of *ko* as Conjunction

The discussion below shows the findings about the word *ko* as an conjunction expressing such meaning as *or*, *because*, *if*, and *so that*. In the following example *ko* of Kupang Malay express *or* in English.

- [1] Ayang sepatu yg warna merah **ko** hitam?
Dear shoes which color red **or** black?
Honey, which color of shoes do you want? red **or** black?

The meaning of *ko* in the sentence (1) is *or*. The word *ko* in this sentence has function to indicate an alternative between color *red* and *black*. The function of *ko* in this sentence shows that it is a conjunction. Follow is another example.

- [2] Manusia **ko** binatang lu ni?
Human **or** animal you this?
Human **or** animal 2SG this?
are you a human **or** an animal?

The meaning of the sentence above is 'are you a human **or** an animal?'. *Ko* in this sentence indicates an alternative, *manusia ko binatang*. The position of word *ko* in this sentence is like example (1) which has meaning as conjunction *or*. The next example bellow is to illustrate the meaning of *ko* as *because* in English.

- [3] A : karmana lu tau?
Why you know ?
How do you know?
B : **Ko** be ada di oesapa ni baru sonde ada orang
Because I exist at oesapa this,
new no exist people
Because 1SG exist at oesapa this,
new no exist people
Because I am in Oesapa and there is nobody.

The meaning of the example (3) is '**because** I am in Oesapa and there is nobody'. The word *ko* in this example means *because* and has function to tell the reason. Another examples of *ko* as conjunction *if* are given bellow.

- [4] A : nanti bulan depan katong pi deby pu rumah e
Later Month infront we go deby have house E
Let's go to deby's home next month.
B : Ma bae **ko** b masih di Kupang..
MA good **if** I still at Kupang
MA good **if** 1SG still at Kupang
Yes **if** I am still in Kupang

The meaning of *ko* in the sentence above is *if*. The word *ko* in this sentence has function to tell that one thing can happen or true depend on another thing, 'yes **if** I am still in Kupang', the function of *ko* in this sentence shows that it is a conjunction. Another example is follows.

- [5] **ko** lu puku dia ju dia sonde akan marah lu
If you hit him again he no will hate you
If 2SG hit him again he no will hate you
Even **if** you hit him, he won't hate you

The example above means 'Even **if** you hit him, he won't hate you'. The explanation is not different with example (4). The word *ko* in this example is a conjunction which has function to tell that one thing can happen or true depend on another thing. Another example of *ko* as *so that* is given below.

- [6] lapor di polisi sa **ko** dia tau rasa
Report at police only **so** she know feel
Report at police only **so** 3SG know feel
Report to the police **so that** he stop doing it

The meaning of *ko* in the example above is **so that**. Contextually *ko* in this sentence has function to show the reason for something, 'report to the police **so that** he stop doing it', the word *ko* in this sentence is a conjunction that is used to describe the consequence of being reported. Last example is follows.

- [7] Kasi dia itu buku su **ko** dia pulang su
Give he that book already so that he return home already
Give 3SG that book already so that 3SG return home already
Give him the book **so that** he can go home

The meaning of example above is 'Give him the book **so that** he can go home'. The word *ko* has function to show the purpose of something as conjunction *so that* and is used to connects two independent clauses.

The discussion shows that the morphological status of *ko* in those examples are conjunctions. Examples (1) and (2), explained that *ko* has function to indicate an alternative, the equivalent or substitutive character of two words or phrases as a conjunction *or*, examples (3), described a reason or tell a reason on something as conjunction *because* do, examples (4) and (5) described that *ko* stand as a conjunction that is used to say that one thing can, will or might, happen or be true depending on another thing happening or being true

as conjunction *if*, And the last examples are (6) and (7) described the function of word *ko* as conjunction *so that*, where the word *ko* is used to shows the reason or purpose for something and is used to connects two independent clauses.

The Meaning and Function of *Ko* as Interrogative Word

The discussion below shows the findings about *ko* as an interrogative words. The word *ko* in this study function to ask question. Examples bellow shows the meaning of *ko* as a Yes-No question word; those question beginning with an auxiliary verb and to be, and requires an answer with YES or NO.

The example bellow shows that the position of *ko* is at the begining of the sentence (example 5 and 6) and at the end of the sentence (example 1-4). Eventhough the position of *ko* in an interrogative sentence is different but it's meaning and function is the same.

- [1] B ganggu **ko**? maaf.
I disturb **IW** sorry
1SG disturb **IW** sorry
did I disturb you? Sorry
- [2] pi kampus **ko**?
go campus **IW**
do you want to go to campus?
- [3] bosong gila **ko**?
You crazy **IW**
2PL crazy **IW**
Are you crazy?
- [4] Ini untuk b **ko**?
This for me **IW**
This for 1SG **IW**
Is this for me?
- [5] **Ko** dong semua sonde ada?
IW they all no present
IW 3PL all no present
Are all of them not there?
- [6] **Ko** dia bilang dia mau datang ?
IW he say he want come
IW 3SG say 3SG want come
Did he said that he want to come?

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

There are three conclusions that can be drawn based on the data analysis; 1) the morphological status of *ko* based on the data analysis shows that *ko* is a free morpheme because it is capable to stand alone as a complete word. There are four different types of free morpheme including root, stem, bases, **content word and fuction words**. In this case the word *ko* includes to **content words**; *adverb (adverb of degree)* and **function words**; *conjunction* and *interrogative words*; 2) the

meaning of *ko* as an adverb are *about, maybe, perhaps, probably* and *just*, the meaning of *ko* as conjunction are *or, because, if, and so that*. While, the meaning of *ko* as interrogative words is as a Yes-No question words; those question beginning with an auxiliary verb and to be. The function of *ko* as an adverb of degree is to modify another adverb and verb, the function of *ko* as conjunction is to conjoin two independent clauses. Then, the function of *ko* as interrogative word is to ask question and require Yes or No as the answer.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusions above, the writer provides suggestions that; 1) the writer suggests that it is advisable for Indonesian people to maintain and develop the local languages; 2) this writing is hopefully helpful for the readers who want to know more detail about the word *ko* of Kupang Malay as an addition in developing their knowledge in mastering local language. This research result is very useful for those who want to do further research on Kupang Malay.

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